Raleigh
Amateur
Radio
Society, Inc.

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
RARS
WORLDWIDE FRIENDSHIP

CLUB CALL: W4DW
REPEATER: W4DW/R 146.04/64

AUGUST 1982
ISSUE 149

LEADING EDGE

SHERMAN STARNES
W4TZU

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Leading Edge discontinued mention of OSCAR 7 last autumn because nothing had been heard from it for several months, apparently due to a shorted battery. In mid-June reliable observers started reporting reception of the mode A beacon at 29.500 and scattered reports persist. The spacecraft had operated for the last two years before total failure with an open battery, power being available from the solar cells only when in sunlight. Speculation at the time of total failure was that another battery cell could open and circumvent the shorted one so that solar power could bring the bird back to life. We will continue to monitor the situation to see if amateur radio turns up with its own version of Star Trek, The Motion Picture.

Telemetry from OSCAR 8 indicates that some problem might be developing with the battery on board that craft. These Phase 2 satellites, (OSCARs 6, 7 and 8), have each long outlived their design lifetimes, battery failure being the common denominator in the ultimate demise of OSCARs 6 and 7. One wonders how long the rest of the craft would last and what would fail next were the batteries not the weakest element.

UOSAT 9, the British-designed scientific amateur radio satellite launched last October, still has its command receivers desensed by its own beacons. The two-meter moonbounce facilities at K1WHS are now engaged in an effort to get thrcugh to the two-meter command receiver. The effective radiated power is adequate to overcome the two-meter beacon but the complexity and timing of the command pulses require that the sequence be sent repeatedly until, by luck, the beacon can be shut down. With more than twenty percent of the spacecraft's design lifetime spent in testing and now in this problem, AMSAT Satellite Report says the feeling in the user and experimenter community is evolving from disappointment to frustration to apathy.

The Soviet's space-launched amateur radio satellite, ISKRA 2, was last heard here at W4TZU on June 31 when I timed acquisition and loss of signal to aid W9TGB in updating the parameters of the rapidly-changing orbit. Surely it will have fallen out of orbit by the time you read this.

The remaining six Russian satellites, RS-3 through RS-8, are operating normally. VK4TL engaged WH6AMX in a QSO via RS-8 on July 3 and they are claiming a record distance for a satellite contact.

Those of you with a computer or at least a terminal and a modem can check the AMSAT Software Exchange Bulletin Board at (512)852-8194. The bulletin board carries the latest information on each amateur satellite and provides for information exchange among amateurs with an interest in satellites and/or computers.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: FRANK C. WEISS, KY4W
PRODUCTION EDITOR: ANN M. BRADLEY, WA4APK

LET'S TALK DIGITAL de AA4L

000010 1000010 1011010 0100000 1000001 1000001 0110100 1001100 0000011 0000010 1000010 1011010 0100

The diagram published last month is for a terminal unit (TU) which can be built for less than $20 from readily available parts.

This TU will receive RTTY signals at speeds up to 110 baud. It is designed to connect to the speaker leads of a VHF or HF transceiver. The output is standard RS 232 levels of -6V for mark and +6V for space, which will work with most personal computers. With the addition of some simple circuitry, this circuit can be modified to drive a 20ma or 60ma teleprinter.

Op amp U1 acts as a clipper. The incoming audio tones from the speaker leads will be on the order of a few tenths of a volt with the xcvr audio adjusted to a comfortable listening level. At the output of U1, this signal will have been transformed into a constant amplitude square wave of about 12 volts.

U2A and U2B are active filters. U2A is designed to pass only 2125 Hz (mark) tones, and U2B will pass only 2295 Hz (space) tones. The outputs from the filters are rectified by the diode bridges. U3A is a differential amplifier which senses whether the space output or mark output is bigger. U3B is a limiting amplifier which converts the output of U3A to RS 232 levels.

The circuit may be built on a Radio Shack #276-170 experimental pc board. The capacitors marked with an asterick must be good quality. Don't use disc ceramics. It helps if these capacitors are matched within a few percent. Although not shown on the schematic, it is advisable to bypass the +6 and -6 voltage supply points to ground on this pc board with .1 mfd capacitors. The power drain is less than 100 ma, and any well-filtered power supply will work. In a pinch, use a couple of lantern batteries.

After building, turn on and check for smoke. Connect an audio signal generator to the input, adjusted for a signal output of exactly 2125 Hz! Connect a scope or an ac meter to TPM and adjust the 100 ohm pot at U2A for maximum ac voltage at TPM. Do this very carefully. The M LED should glow, and the RS232 output should be at -5 or -6 volts dc.

Set the signal generator to exactly 2295 Hz and adjust the space filter, using TPS, the pot at U2B, and the S LED. The RS 232 output should be at +5 or +6 Volts.

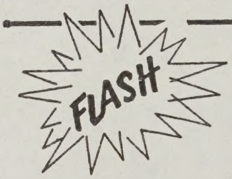
Hook up the input to your speaker leads, and the output to your terminal, and copy RTTY! If you are using an HF SSB xcvr, set it for lower sideband. The LEDs may be used as tuning indicators. Tune the RTTY signal very carefully until both LEDs flash with equal brilliance. If you have a scope, it may be used as a tuning indicator by connecting TPM to the vertical input and TPS to the horizontal input.

If your xcvr has one speaker leads grounded to the chassis (most do), be sure that this lead connects to the ground foil of the pc board.

This TU is designed to be cheap and simple. It does not have any bells or whistles, but it will perform as well as many commercial units selling for a few hundred dollars.

If you build one and have any trouble getting it to work, come see me.

73 de AA4L



REPEATER PARTY

Saturday, July 31, is the Day!! It's the day for RARS members to set aside to attend the Repeater party and help install the new hardline on the tower. The time is 6:30 am. You're right, 6:30 is pretty early for a Saturday morning, but it's also much much cooler. So wind up the old alarm clock and be prepared to lend a hand. If you need directions, contact Billy Edwards or Lynn Pendleton.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on July 7, 1982, in the West Community Room at Crabtree Valley Mall. After coffee, doughnuts and fellowship, the meeting was called to order by President "Doc" Cobb, W4YZX, and members and guests were welcomed. The two guests became members of RARS this evening. They are: Charles Davis, KW4O, and Howard Passel, KB4UY, both of Raleigh. The roster was signed by 31 members.

Doc gave a report on Rollin Ransom, NF4P, who is in Rex Hospital, and suggested members send him a QSL card. During the meeting, all members present signed a card for him.

Doc also reminded all that the Cary Swapfest will be held July 17th at the usual place.

Doc announced that the new repeater has been delivered and Billy Edwards, K4BWC, and Walt Short, N4SW, are now checking and debugging it before putting it on the air. Pictures of the new repeater and associated equipment were on display for all to see.

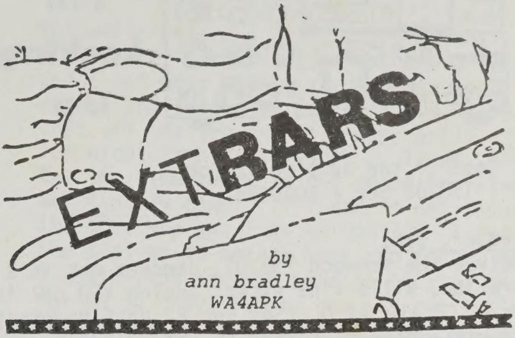
Bruce Eggers, WA9NEW, our Hamfest Chairman for 1983, was introduced and announced that he is already working on the Hamfest and would appreciate any and all help and advice.

Jesse Hodges, W4JG, announced the next meeting of QCWA, July 31st, at the Eutaw Cafeteria in Fayetteville.

Billy Edwards, FM Repeater Chairman, gave a report on the repeater. He says we will have plenty of power and should have coverage of 50-75 miles. The phone patch has been installed. So far, all checks out fine. He will need some help from the members when it is being installed.

The program for the evening was slides from the Hamfest and Field Day, shown by Jim Bradley, WA4AOO, with appropriate comments. A roundtable report on Field Day was given by Jim Peeler, WA4YOM, Ron Oates, AA4VK, and Lynn Pendleton, K4NYV.

The door prize was won by Sue Meyer Parks, WB4USX. The meeting was then adjourned.
Marty Silver, NY4H, Sec. RARS



by
ann bradley
WA4APK

EXTRARS is most happy to report that Rollin, NF4P, is making continuous progress is recovering from his recent accident. Rollin spent several weeks at Rex Hospital with an aneurism and fracture resulting from a fall. Glad you're better, Rollin.

****

Also, glad to know that Frank Pankotay has left Rex Hospital and is still recouperating from his recent heart attack. A most speedy recovery to you, Frank, KY4X.

****

Annette Rogers, KB4AQH, made her radio debut Field Day at the Novice station. That's a commendable accomplishment, Annette. You novices put me to shame.

****

Chuck, K4HF, reports that W4DW made approximately 1,000 contacts for Field Day - about half phone, half CW. That's considered about average.

****

Ron Oates, AA4VK, won the Roanoke Division 10 meter Contest back in December. The results are in July QST and are quite astounding, I understand. Ron is already making ready for the next "go-round." Congratulations, Ron and "Gud Luk" next time.

****

RARS is proud to announce 2 new members from the July meeting. Charles Davis, KW40, and Howard Passel, KB4UY, both of Raleigh. Welcome, fellows! We're glad to have you.

****

Cary Swapfest was again a rip-roaring success. That's assuming everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. Probably more RARS members were there than at a monthly meeting. And for once, the YLs stole the show. First prize, the Ten-Tec Argosy HF rig went to Sue Langley, KA4AVM, and Second Prize, an Icom IC-2AT was won by Trudy Schlegal. NZ4S. Way to go, Girls!

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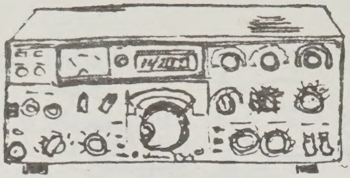


I'm Looking Up

The Case of the Jumping VFO or
#@! TS830S Ser # 2030474

December, 1981

Received the Kenwood TS830S, checked out it's operation, all's fine except analog VFO cal is high by 38 kHz at 0. (See Feb 82 RARS Newsletter) This was a clue of things to come but not recognized as such.

May, 1982

Occasional frequency jumps have been added to by frequency jitters (See June Newsletter). Chuch, K4HF provided the Kenwood's User group answer to the jitters. Improve the contact between the audio board ground and the alumimun heat sink for the regulators. Use washers if necessary. Tightening the mounting screws cured the jitters but not the jumps. These jumps were of a few kHz at the 500 end and 30 kHz at the 0 end of the VFO scale. The rig was stable to mechanical shocks. Why did it seem to jump during a special QSO?

June 1982

Borrowed an external VFO-120 from Jim, WA4AOO to help verify that the 830 VFO rather than the supply voltages were at fault. Didn't see it jump when both VFO's were hooked up so went on vacation, returning the external VFO.

July, 1982

Tried the 830 after vacation. The *#@*! started jumping again!!!!! This has got to stop.

Thursday July 15, 1982

Removed the VFO from the TS830 (easy if u have a 3mm hex wrench, 4 screws and pull gently). Removed the shield cover and started to poke, probe,twist and bang on circuit board parts. Extended operation out of the 830 was solid. Installed in the 830, it jumped three times in three hours.

Saturday July 17, 1982

Enjoyed the Cary Club Swapfest. Ladies Day. They won all the prizes

7:00 PM Saturday July 17, 1982

Had Jim bring the VFO-120 to the swap fest, (Thanks Jim). Bought some component cooler. Found the hair drier. I'm going to lick this thing if its the last thing I do! I attacked board components one by one. A shot of cold, a shot of heat, but not a single component would cause the dreeded jump. Just two items left, the coil on a ceramic form and the variable capacitor. Cooling the coil and cap caused frequency drift but no jump. Heat on the variable cap caused the freq to go 26 kHz lower in one jump (dial at 0). Cold shot caused a jump back. At the 500 dial setting, the jump was a few kHz. At last, controlled freqency jumps on command.

00:00 AM Sunday July 18, 1982

Hot on the trail of the culpret, all clues point to the variable capacitor, VC1, as the bad guy. Can he really be changing capacity with temperature? The change appears to be at least one outside plates worth. Taking my trusty magnifying glass in hand, focusing on the outer-most stator plate mounting, I can't believe my eyes. All 4 mounting tabs are thru the mounting plate but NOT properly CRIMPED. The plate is floating in the mounting plate slots. The stator plates are aluminum and won't take solder. Using a jewlers screwdriver as a small chisel, the soft aluminum of the stator plate was firmly split and crimped against the mounting plate, all 4 places. Here in North Carolina with it's high summer humidity, oxidation and poor contacts are a way of life. Aluminum Oxide is an insulator. It required heat to expand the stator plate enough to break thru the oxide and make contact, thus lowering the frequency in a jump.

Monday July 19, 1982

The Kenwood TS830S has been steady as a rock for the past two days, just normal warm-up drift of a few hundred cycles. At long last, no more VFO jumps while in a QSO. Check your Kenwood VFO variable capacitor if you are plagued with the jumps. The serial # of my rig is at the top of this article. If this is the solution to your frequency jump, I'll enjoy hearing from you.

Keep Looking Up!

======73, Frank, KY4W

TRADING POST

FOR SALE--priced to sell!

SB-221 80-10m Heath linear amplifier Excellent.
HQ-180A Hammerland general coverage receiver
Johnson Matchbox antenna tuner.
Viking II 80-10m transmitter with VFO
1 model 19 teletype system
100-400 Mhz. frequency meter.
Heath HA-202 10w. in - 40 w. out, 2 meter amplifier.

Condition varies. Most with manual. Contact Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, at 872-6555.

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH HAM RADIO

Annette Rogers, KB4AQH

It all started one day last August when the UPS man delivered a Heathkit package to our door. Knowing that I would not have ordered anything from Heathkit, I figured that my husband Lee, WB4DRJ, was starting yet another project. When he arrived home that evening, he disappeared for a while with his package, and a short time later presented me with the novice license study book. To say I was less than enthusiastic in receiving this "gift" is putting it mildly. This was just one more of his many efforts over the past 23 years to try to get me interested in ham radio. After all, I feel much more at home in front of my sewing machine or with a watercolor brush in my hand. I could only think that I could never learn all that technical stuff. I can't even hold a screwdriver. My confidence was at zero.

The next day while he wasn't around I just sneaked a peak inside the book. I even ventured so far as to read the whole first chapter, took the review test at the end, and found, much to my surprise, that I got every answer right. Hey, this wasn't so hard after all. In the next several days, I breezed through several more chapters with the same results. That is, until I reached Chapter 5, entitled "Electrical Principles." I got stuck on this chapter! But with lots of patient help and further reading and rereading, interrupted by frequent trips into the "radio shack" so Lee could show me a resister, a capacitor, an inductor and all those other things I was trying to learn about, I completed the chapter. I struggled through several more chapters, finally completing the whole book many months later, and started through it again. It wasn't so hard this time! By now I was beginning to practice my code, and with the help of our home computer, I spent many evenings copying nonsense words in our family room. I was also beginning to listen in on some CW conversations on the receiver and really enjoyed the challenge of trying to copy them and learn the ham jargon. I was also witnessing the miracle of making lots of friends so far away.

So last March I took my code test and passed it. In May, following a solid week of cramming, I took the written test. What a thrill to later get the postcard marked "Passed", followed several weeks later by my new call, KB4AQH! I was ready to get on the air! The antique (20 plus years) transmitter had been dusted off and given a trial run. Even the desk got cleaned off a bit. There were some side benefits to this effort!

But wait--before I could transmit there was a little problem about an antenna. So Lee and I got busy and we strung up a temporary dipole the length of our backyard, about 5 feet off the ground. (It was really a trap for night time trespassers.) It was enough for the time being to get me on the air. The day finally came. If I was so excited about it, then why was I so nervous??? I turned the dial on 40 meters back and forth, hoping I could find someone sending CQ slow enough for me to copy, but no one was available. So I found an empty spot and sent my own CQ, all the time shaking nervously in my shoes. As soon as I completed the call, back came a reply--calling my call sign! Lee said, "You got one!" It was just like going fishing! My first QSO lasted about 45 minutes and I talked to a man in Mass, who sent perfect code for me to copy. Several days later I received his QSL card in the mail. I think I will frame it next to my license. What a thrill that first contact was!

You will be glad to know that the backyard is once again safe, with the antenna mounted in its permanent place, high above the house. It did not get erected without my learning some unexpected things. I didn't know you used a fishing pole to get an antenna up in the tree limbs. And then there was the little problem about the broken storm window. That happened when I was trying to throw the weight on the fishing line up to Lee, who was on the roof. I never made the girls' baseball team either.

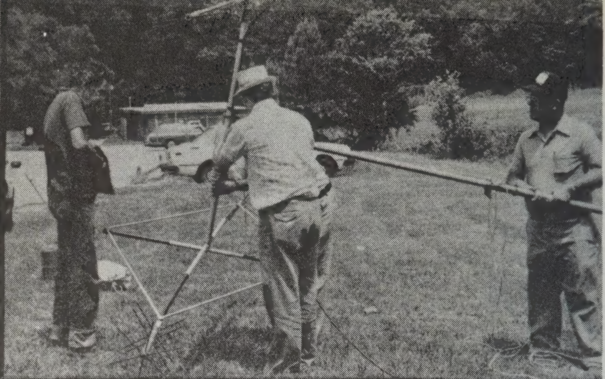
Now I'm looking forward to making many new friends via ham radio. I know my learning has just begun. But with the support and encouragement I've already felt from my friends in RARS, I feel I'm on my way. Frank Weiss, KY4W, generously gave of his time to give me the code and written tests. And La Verne, KA4ULZ, without realizing it, was my real inspiration. She got her license a year ago. I figured it she could do it, I could too! And of course, Lee was my personal tutor and never gave up his dream for me. Now I say thanks.

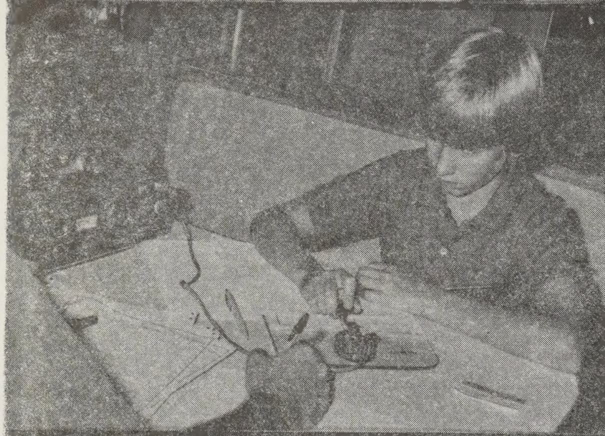
This year for my birthday I'm requesting the Heathkit general license study book. I have confidence I will get there eventually.

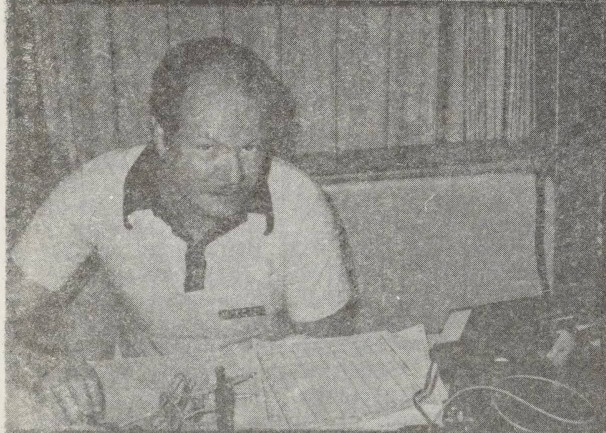
So, I'll say 73 to all my new ham friends. I have to go now and learn how to replace a storm window.

Annette

FIELD DAY







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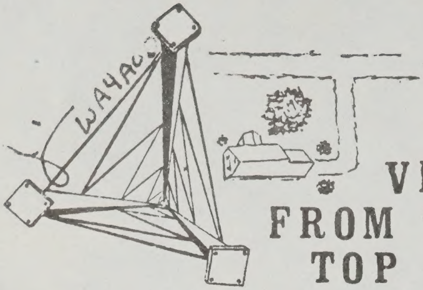

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Most of the antenna work around here seems to be at a standstill, because of the heat, humidity and the seemingly everyday thunderstorms. And now the one thing everyone seems to work in best is air-conditioned rooms. Perhaps now is the time for planning the new tower, antenna, roof mount etc., instead of sweating out gallons of salt water and only getting frustrated instead of finished. It's called engineering, ground work, planning ahead, or having everything ready, but really just takes time to sit down, think it out-get the material and equipment on hand-have it put together or measured properly. Lay it out in the order of use, and the job goes much easier than having to stop in the middle of the work to do something which should have been done beforehand. Whether putting up a 100 ft. tower complete with antenna arrays or a wire dipole between two of thetrees in your back yard, a bit of thinking ahead will sure help. One of the most embarassing moments in a Ham's life is when he or she has invited all the local gang over to help with a project and then isn't ready! Are all the bolts, nuts, screws, co-ax fittings, terminals, and various other pieces there? Do you have spares on hand?-you can bet your bippy that if you only have one nut of a specific size, it will be the one that gets dropped and lost. Mr. Murphy and his laws are always around! OK, now that you have all the parts and spares on hand, how about the necessary tools-and remember that the list of tools can get pretty exotic at times (if you need a chrom-plated gizmowhatchmaycallit-just where do you get it at 8 AM on Saturday morning??) One of the remarkable things about a bunch of Hams is that unusual tools and material are usually available if needed-just yell for help. On one occasion strange and exotic tools and materials were needed at the top of a tower, and repeatedly they were sent up almost immediatly to our suprise--when we got down from the tower and asked how the tools and material were instantly available, we found that the hardware store 2 doors down the street was taking inventory on Sunday morning and was the source of supply-thinking ahead pays off...dumb luck helps too;

So let's do the planning now, while it's hot and then this Fall we can get the job done easier and faster. And in all that planning, don't forget to get the beer and cokes iced down!

YOU COULD WIN!
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Contest and drawing is conducted by
CVRA - SouthEastern Repeater Association, Inc.

Amateur radio clubs need people who can do something...not those to explain they did not do it. ARNS Newsletter

YLS ARE ALIVE & WELL & CQING AROUND THE WORLD

Can you imagine what it would be like to be in a room with 250 YLs? I recently had the opportunity to find out - it was a ball!

Non-Ham, OM Mike and I recently spent 3 days in D.C. at the YLRL Convention. For those who don't know what YLRL is - Young Ladies Radio League - officially a part of ARRL, established over 40 years ago. One of the originators is Ethel Smith, K4LMB. Some of you met her when she was here for the 4th District Planning Meeting. She was Chairperson of this convention.

I met many YLs with whom I have had QSOs and met on the YL Nets. I felt I had known them for years. Most States were represented and I was the only YL from North Carolina.

The YLs there came in all sizes, shapes and ages - several were handicapped - from a very young girl who had been a ham only 2 years to one celebrating 60 years in amateur radio. There were also several DXYLs - from Alaska, Canada, Bermuda, Japan, Holland, Sweden, Germany, England, Argentina, and India. I had QSO'd with the ones from Sweden and Holland.

About 1/3 of their OMs were there - all hams except Mike! I also met 2 YLs whose OMs are not hams and they were also Extras. Wonder what the significance of that is???

We had a fascinating slide presentation with commentary by Jean Chittenden, WA2BGE, on her trip to China along with other prominent hams. This was the group who went over to help get BY1PK on the air.

During the business meeting on Saturday, the OMs visited the Goddard Space Center - so that kept Mike occupied for one day!

All the DXYLs spoke about their country and ham radio and especially YL activities. One piece of advice some of you DXers will be interested in - Usha, VU2UGI, said please do not send green stamps to India. They are not accepted and can get hams in trouble. We also heard an interesting speech on DXing by Ellen White, W1YL, and a luncheon talk by Lenore Jensen, W6NAC, on public relations and ham radio. I'm sure some of you have heard of both of them. There were other well-known YLs there too numerous to name.

The banquet speaker was Lauren Belvin who is the Legal Assistant to the FCC Chairman.

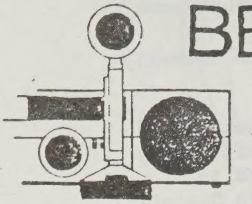
One thing I would like to say about all the speakers - interesting, brief and to the point. No Rag Chewers Awards there!

Among the VIPs were Stu Meyer, W2GHK; Gay Milius, W4UG; Jean Peacor, K1IJV, who does the YL column in QST. The QCWA Board also met in conjunction with our meeting.

My thoughts on the convention: All YLs are terrific! I did not meet a single one I did not like immediately. We have a common interest that forms a bond between us that is supportive and very rare among any other group that I know.

The next convention is 1985 - I can hardly wait!

Marty Silver - NY4H



BERT'S BEAT

with
BERT BAILEY, W4FMN

The FCC, among its myriad of decisions to make, must decide to whom to give authority to provide direct broadcast satellite (DBS) to American homes. Between 1984 and "85, one estimate is that one million units per year will be purchased for between 350 to $500 each. Three problems, at least, crop up. One, the microwave industry, the prime mover in DBS technology are, at least in the USA, producers of small numbers of high-priced parts; they are high margin conscious. Second, Japan is again a threat to move in and take over. These people are not only low-margin, they will operate at a loss during start-up just to corner the market. If the USA is not careful, it will be, again, our high technology losing out to foreign high volume, low cost operation. Mass production techniques are unknown to most of our microwave outfits. Third, to complicate the issue, the Japanese are perfecting high definition TV (HDTV) which creates large screen monitors. Selling HDTV now would obselete all TV sets in use today. We don't have a David Sarnoff looking out for John Q Public, reserving RCA's move into color TV until the peons could receive transmissions on their B/W sets. So HDTV threatens to cut into critical spectrum space with its 47MHz bandwidth. The result is that the FCC must decide who has or gets the Tony. There are eight DBS contenders today vying for FCC favor, viz. CBS, given to HDTV; Satellite TV Corpo (STC), opting for CATV rebroadcasting programs for local audiences; United States Satellite Broadcasting Co, a conglomerant of BC utilities using terrestral TV stations and low power TV stations to serve as local news bureaus; Direct Broadcast Satellite Corpo, proposing common carrier operations covering all 50 states; Western Union, including all 50 plus HDTV; Graphic Scanning Corpo, planning to cater to home computers via teletext in addition to 2 satellites for morning news coverage; and RCA American Commo proposing a half billion dollar program with 4 satellites carrying six channels. So there you have it. A big scramble for your eyeballs and mine by a colossal DBS market. In the future 5 to 10 years, the competition will be ferocious. From dawn to dusk we will be punching buttons and watching screens to shop for goods of all kinds, getting home protection from mountainous crime waves, stock market returns, ballgames education (get your degree via the boob tube) and other clean or unclean entertainment. Let's hope we can still see Lawrence Wek and Gunsmoke. HiHi.

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

12th - Erwin Schroedinger (1887-1961)
Austria
Founder of wave mechanics and The Equation.

21st - Augustin Cauchy (1789-1857)
France
Founder of complex variable theory (and the old "Gotcha" formula dear to all EE's).

22nd - Samuel P. Langley (1834-1906)
USA
Developed the bolometer (used in microwaves not the P.I.).

26th - Johann H. Lambert (1728-1777)
Alsace
Pioneer of photometry.

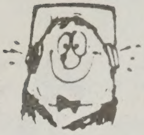
28th - Johann W. Goeth
Pioneer of optics and colorimetry and a poet!

31st - Hermann Helmholtz (1821-1894)
Germany
Pioneer of optics, acoustics, diffraction theory and thermo.

PROGRAM FOR AUGUST

RARS program for the August meeting will be a demonstration on Computers presented by Radio Shack. All you computer buffs and those aspiring to be--as well as those with only a casual interest should find this program most interesting and informative. Don't forget--it's August 4. See you there!

NET NEWS



The winds of change can warm or cool in the climate of our daily lives. This is true whether our reference is business, pleasure or just day to day living.

This was brought home to some of us recently when we were chilled by a breeze from Newington. It seemed as if the cloudy, shadowy THEY were dictating an unasked-for, unnecessary, and poorly explained policy of upheaval for the Section in general and the SCM and his staff in particular.

To have just taken office, made appointments, formulated plans both public and private and then be told one is the last of a dying breed can be very traumatic to say the least. Certain obvious and some not so obvious questions came to mind. One seemed to take precedence over the others: Was the Board of Directors, in its wisdom, making a unilateral statement? Or were the changes really necessary? Here is one mans' opinion.

The need has been brought about by changes in three areas. Intermingled and interdependent as they are, some definition is possible: Technology, economic, and the basic character of the Amateur Community. Let's examine the last one first.

Up until some thirty years ago, Hams felt they were part of a small but far flung network. Cross-town contacts were seldom made and certainly not sought after. Wide coverage net operation and message relaying go hand in hand so the foundation for Hiram Maxims' idea for public service was in place when it was needed. Technical expertise was a must for every operator and the problems of the youngster trying to build a station out of his allowance were shared to great measure by the millionaire who was forced to make the parts which simply were not found in any market-place. Due to the technology of the day, CW was a common language which every Ham not only knew but used constantly.

Cognicent of all these factors, the League, perforce, became a reflection of them. This meant a given technical article could not just be understood by more Hams, it was also more important to a greater percentage of the brotherhood than any one article would be today. It also meant advise on andhelp with organization of net and tfc. operation played to a larger audience. And, finally, it dictated the Leagues' structure within the Section.

Since then, technology has advanced at an unbelievable rate. Appliance operation and the ubiquitous hand-held have come upon us. Repeaters blanket the country, and CW has been replaced by computer language.

Economics is a much greater factor in Amateur Radio today. The reliable and sophisticated solid state equipment on the market these days, is not cheap. If an either-or type decision must be made, the less expensive, albeit just as sophisticated VHF rig gets the nod.

And so the League, if there is to be a League, must change. Not just in order to better recognize modern technology; not just in order to try to equalize membership importance, therefore involvement, regardless of the worth of his or her station in dollars and cents; not even because, for all its ever used, CW is becoming a dead language and cross-town contacts are the order of the day. No, not for any one of those but rather because the combination of all those factors represents Amateure Radio today. And it's different.

For too long, the winds of change have been ignored. They are not becoming a gale to take shelter from, but they are a constant force which should be recognized and put to use.

73

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SCM/N.C.

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RARS meets each first Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the West Community Room of Crabtree Valley Mall.

Calendar

July 31 - Hamnick DFMA, Camp New Hope

Aug. 4 - Regular RARS meeting

Aug. 10 - RARS Newscopy Deadline

Aug. 14, 15 - European DX Contest

Aug. 18 - RARS Advisory Board Meeting

Aug. 21, 22 - Alaskan QSO Party

Sept. 1 - Regular RARS Meeting

Sept. 4, 5 - Shelby Hamfest

Sept. 12 - Gaithersburg, Md. Hamfest

Sept. 15 - FCC Exams, Greensboro, NC

RC